

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15 (the third full paragraph on page 5), with the following rewritten paragraph:

The technique of the present invention is actualized by a variety of applications, which include image processing methods, computer programs that attain the functions of such apparatuses and methods, ~~and~~ recording media in which such computer programs are ~~recorded~~ recorded, and data signals that include such computer programs and are embodied in carrier waves.